

32 Wilmington Street  
Los Angeles, Cal  
10, 686

My dear Sir

I should have thanked you more  
to have been critical of my little  
paper than commendatory.

Perhaps after you have labored  
through the next part - you will  
kindly give me what the lawyers call  
"a bill of exceptions".

After it left my hands, I lamented  
my haste that I should have been  
presumptuous enough to seem to  
criticise any work of Mr Watson.  
It would have been so simple to  
have said my say, without trying to  
to give myself an air of importance  
by "lugging" his name in -

I say this entirely from compassion for  
myself - not for Mr Watson - <sup>public</sup> criticism  
whose distinguished name and  
production, by my pen would be  
more than "had" taste - it would  
amount to an absurdity. Private

opinions we all have a right to  
and strenuous. His little Guadelupe  
monograph is one of the most  
fascinating papers I have ever seen.  
In fact I know it "by heart" though  
I would not of course have him  
know that.

Well, to business

I send you a scrap of what I  
call *S. humilis* - all in fact that  
I had showing fairly matured  
fruit. We call it all *humilis*  
here - although the specimen from  
which this came was of robust  
growth, but having the same  
lay - semi-procumbent habit it  
all has -

Pardon excuse, the penuriousness of  
the contribution - but I am scant  
of good material - and the season  
has gone by for collecting it. This  
is all -

You will not have to fear any more  
botanical effusions at my hands

for the present.  
All my contributions now are to  
"garden sacs" periodicals (at the  
request of the publishers) and the  
botany and nomenclature therein  
is something fearful and wonderful.  
If in the next 20 years or so  
you should enter your second  
childhood (which, God forbid) - and  
should all back on such literature  
for relaxation, let me know and  
I will be sending you some of  
my contributions to floriculture.

Most sincerely & respectfully yours  
Wm. J. Lyon

Mr. Asa Gray  
Cambridge  
Mass.